

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 FEA-01

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CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01

ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11

JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01

PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 OIC-02

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: LOS - AEGEAN PROBLEMS

REF: (A) ATHENS 120, (B) ATHENS 506, (C) STATE 16158

SUMMARY: AT BILATERAL CONVERSATION WITH GREEKS 26 FEBRUARY, THEY MADE ALL USUAL POINTS ABOUT TURKISH PROBLEM, BUT PLACED MAJOR STRESS ON OVERFLIGHT BY TURKISH AIRCRAFT. END SUMMARY.

1. BERNARD OXMAN (DEPT) AND REAR ADMIRAL MAX MORRIS (JCS) MET WITH AMBASSADOR TOULoupAS AND VICE ADMIRAL MITSAKOA (GREECE) 26 FEBRUARY FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF GREEK PROBLEMS REGARDING LOS CONFERENCE. GREEKS RAISED ISSUES OF STRAITS, CONTINENTAL SHELF DELIMITATION, AND ENCLOSED AND SEMI-CONFIDENTIAL

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ENCLOSED SEAS. WE TOOK NO POSITION ON GREECE-TURKEY ISSUES, RELYING SOLELY ON GENERAL US POSITIONS ON STRAITS AND CONTINENTAL SHELF, DISCUSSION OF TACTICAL SITUATION IN CONFERENCE, AND DESIRABILITY OF GREECE AND TURKEY GETTING

TOGETHER TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS.

2. STRAITS. GREEKS NOTED THAT VIRTUALLY ALL THE WATERS BETWEEN THE GREEK ISLANDS MIGHT BE REGARDED AS STRAITS. WHILE MAKING PRO-FORMA REFERENCES TO SOVIETS, THEY MADE IT APPARENT THAT REAL PROBLEM WAS TURKISH MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS. WE EXPLAINED PROBLEMS WITH GREEK IDEA OF LISTING STRAITS USED FOR INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION. IN RESPONSE TO GREEK ALLEGATION OF TURKS POTENTIALLY ENDANGERING CIVIL AVIATION, WE NOTED THAT ARTICLE 39(3)(A) OF STRAITS TEXT SPECIFIES THAT STATE AIRCRAFT "WILL AT ALL TIMES OPERATE WITH DUE REGARD FOR THE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION". MITSAKOS THEN RAISED PROBLEM OF HAVING TO MAINTAIN CONSTANT ALERTS EVERY TIME TURKISH AIRCRAFT ENTER AREA. WE INFORMALLY SUGGESTED GREEKS CONSIDER POSSIBILITY THAT NON-POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS OF WHAT CONSTITUTES NORMAL BEHAVIOR, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO LEGAL RIGHTS, MIGHT BE IN INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES IN ORDER TO AVOID MISCALCULATIONS AND TENSION, NOTING OTHER PRECEDENTS. WE ALSO NOTED THAT IT MIGHT BE UNWISE FOR GREECE TO TAKE POSITIONS ON STRAITS WHICH MAKE THE SOVIETS UNDULY NERVOUS ABOUT WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE A FUNDAMENTAL SECURITY INTEREST IN ACCESS TO AND FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN.

3. CONTINENTAL SHELF DELIMITATION. GREEKS STRESSED MEDIAN LINE PRINCIPLE FOR DELIMITATION, AND ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY OF ELIMINATING CONTINENTAL SHELF CONCEPT WITHIN 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE SO THAT IT ONLY APPLIES OUTSIDE, OR SPECIFYING THAT CONTINENTAL SHELF CANNOT EXTEND INTO ECONOMIC ZONE OF FOREIGN STATE. WE TOOK NO POSITION, BUT EXPLAINED PROBLEMS GREECE WOULD HAVE IN PERSUADING OTHERS ON THESE POINTS. WE AGREED WITH GREEK VIEW THAT BILATERAL DELIMITATION ISSUES CANNOT BE SOLVED IN LOS TREATY, AND SAID CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE TO FIND NON-PREJUDICIAL LANGUAGE FOR TREATY ARTICLES ON DELIMITATION. WE TOOK OCCASION TO NOTE POINTS WHERE US AND GREEK AMENDMENTS TO CONTINENTAL SHELF COINCIDE.

4. ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS. GREEKS NOTED THAT
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BOTH THEY AND TURKS WERE NOT TOO UNHAPPY WITH ARTICLE 134 BECAUSE THEY HAD DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS. GREEKS SEE ARTICLE AS REQUIRING COOPERATION ONLY ON FISHERIES, POLLUTION, AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND WOULD PREFER TO ELIMINATE GENERAL COOPERATION PROVISION IN FIRST SENTENCE. WE NOTED THAT REOPENING ARTICLE MIGHT PRODUCE EFFORTS BY SOME LDCS TO SUBSTITUTE A STRONGER DUTY THAN ONE TO "COOPERATE".
STREATOR

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